

New MPA Program Will Equip Dordt Students for Public Service

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Students in Dordt's new MPA program will learn the skills and understanding needed to serve in leadership roles in the public sector.

NEW MPA PROGRAM WILL EQUIP DORDT STUDENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Dordt College will begin offering a master of public administration (MPA) program in the summer of 2018. An MPA program—which is like an MBA for the public sector—provides people with the administration skills necessary for managers in a wide variety of fields, from social work to civil service.

“Only two other Christian schools offer MPA programs, and these schools have different educational philosophies than Dordt,” says Dordt Criminal Justice Professor Donald Roth, who is helping lead planning efforts for an academically rigorous program. “Dordt and its sister institutions are graduating many students who would benefit from public administration skills. This MPA program will serve both the Reformed and broader communities.”



Donald Roth

MPA students may choose from one of three tracks: police administration, nonprofit organization administration, and a general track. Students will take one six-week class at a time, completing 12 courses over two years. Nine of these courses will be common to all three tracks, and three courses will be track specific.

The MPA program, like the new Pro-Tech program, grows from Dordt's commitment to providing serviceable Christian education for students in a wide range of fields.

LYDIA MARCUS ('18)

A WEBSITE THAT FITS IN YOUR PALM

If you've visited Dordt's website recently, you've probably noticed that things look a little different: the layout is sleeker, the font is bolder, and the photos are newer.

The new website was launched in mid-December of 2016, but work on the new site began well before then.

“Two years ago, we started reviewing the website, looking at what elements we liked, what the essential pieces were, and what was missing,” explains Dordt Associate Director of Marketing and Communication Sarah Vander Plaats. “A big priority for the new site is responsiveness—the new website needs to be able to work on the device you're viewing it on.”

“Most prospective students access the site via phone or tablet,” says Director of Computer Services Brian Van Donselaar. “The daytime trend—from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.—has been 65 percent desktop and 35 percent mobile usage. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m., the trend is more like 75 percent mobile and 25 percent desktop. The new site is more mobile-friendly than the old site, and we're planning to make it even better.”

Computer Services and Marketing and Communication employees worked through the summer to transfer content from the old site to the new, fix errors, and catch glitches. The result is a site that provides all the information from the previous site in an attractive, mobile-friendly manner. In its first five weeks online, the new website had more than 30,500 visitors and well over 200,000 page views.

Though the website looks new, most content from the old website was preserved. You can still find details about Dordt's bachelor's programs, associate programs, Pro-Tech programs, and master's programs under the Academics tab, and recordings of chapel are located under the Student Life tab, just as they always were. Information for alumni and parents can be found in the upper right corner, and the free application for admission is found under the Admissions & Aid tab.

We think you'll like it. Take a look!

LYDIA MARCUS ('18)

